

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

### **TERRACE (feet) CODE 600**

#### **SCOPE**

This specification covers the construction of terraces. Construction shall be in accordance with the plans and these specifications.

#### **SITE PREPARATION**

All dead furrows, ditches, or gullies to be crossed by the terrace should be filled in, if practicable, before construction begins in order to facilitate construction and to prevent seepage through the terrace ridge. Old terraces, fences, trees, or other obstructions that will interfere with the successful operation of the system shall be removed.

#### **EARTH WORK**

The terraces shall be constructed to the lines, grades, and cross sections shown on the plans and/or staked in the field. The minimum cross section shall meet or exceed design dimensions, and the channel shall drain reasonably well.

Materials for earthfills shall be obtained from excavation in the channel or other designated areas, and shall be free of objectionable materials as brush, roots, and rocks over 6 inches in diameter. The top of the constructed ridge shall not be lower at any point than the design elevation.

Earthfill for shall be compacted by machinery travel. The moisture content of the terrace fill material shall be such that, when kneaded in the hand, the fill material will form a ball that does not readily separate. Material that is too wet shall be dried and material that is too dry shall have water added or work shall be stopped until moisture conditions are satisfactory.

Any ditch or depression at the bottom of the back slope should be filled and smoothed so that drainage will be away from the terrace and not parallel to it.

Terrace ridges constructed across gullies or depressions shall be compacted by machinery travel or other means sufficient to insure proper functioning of the terrace. The surface of the finished terrace shall be reasonably smooth and present a workmanlike finish.

Where it is necessary, topsoil is to be stockpiled and spread over excavations and other areas to facilitate restoration of productivity.

## **OUTLETS**

The outlet of the terrace shall be equal in area to the channel capacity requirements. Every effort shall be made to protect the terrace outlet. If a vegetated outlet is already established, the heavy equipment movement in the outlet during terrace construction shall be closely controlled.

## **BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE**

The acceptability of this practice shall be determined by inspections to insure compliance with all the provisions of this specification and to the drawings.

## **WORKMANSHIP**

All construction shall be performed in a workmanlike manner, and the job site shall have a neat appearance when finished.

## **CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS**

Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner and sequence that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits.

The owner, operator, contractor or other persons will conduct all work and operations in accordance with proper safety codes for the type of construction being performed with due regards to the safety of all persons and property.

## **SAFETY**

Landowners or operators, sponsoring organizations, and contractors shall be liable for damage to utilities and damage resulting from disruption of service caused by construction activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes no representation on the existence or non-existence of any utilities. Absence of utilities on the drawings is not assurance that no utilities are present at the site.

It is the responsibility of the landowner or operator to determine if there are buried or overhead utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work. They should take proper procedures to insure that the utilities shall not be jeopardized and that equipment operators and others will not be injured during construction operations.